

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a first rotating member which rotates about a shaft;
first and second ~~plates for supporting~~ plates, which support both ends of the shaft of the first rotating member;
a second rotating member provided opposite to the first rotating member, said second rotating member rotating about a shaft; and
a third plate having a hole, ~~for supporting wherein the third plate supports~~ the shaft of the second rotating member, said third plate forming a predetermined gap between the first and second rotating members by engaging the hole with the shaft of the first rotating member.
3. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the shaft of the first rotating member is rotatably supported by a bearing.
4. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein one end of the third plate is fixed by a plate different from the plate that supports the first rotating member.

5. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier, which rotates about a shaft;
an exposure device for forming a latent image on the image carrier;
a plurality of developing devices each having a developing roller for developing the latent image at a developing position;
a revolver which holds the plurality of developing devices, said revolver sequentially moving each developing roller of the developing devices to the developing position by rotating about a shaft;
a support frame which rotatably supports the shaft of the revolver;
a positioning ~~device~~ device, which positions the image carrier out of contact with the revolver by supporting the shaft of the revolver and that of the image carrier, and which defines a predetermined gap between each of the developing rollers and image carrier at the developing position;
an intermediate transfer member which is in contact with the image carrier at a top portion of the image carrier in a vertical direction, said intermediate transfer member carrying an image formed on the image carrier.
6. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the developing position is on a lower side in the vertical direction than the contact position between the image carrier and the intermediate transfer member.
7. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the exposure device is arranged at a position lower than the image carrier in the vertical direction.
8. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a sheet transfer device which transfers a sheet to a transfer point at which an image carried by the intermediate transfer member is transferred onto a sheet, wherein a sheet transfer direction at the transfer point is vertical.
9. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the intermediate transfer member carries the image with a plurality of colors superposed, and transfers the image of the plurality of colors onto a sheet at the transfer point.

10. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus ~~according to claim 5, wherein~~
comprising:

an image carrier;

an exposure device for forming a latent image on the image carrier;

a plurality of developing devices each having a developing roller for developing the
latent image at a developing position;

a revolver which holds the plurality of developing devices, said revolver sequentially
moving each developing roller of the developing devices to the developing
position by rotating about a shaft;

a support frame which rotatably supports the shaft of the revolver;

a positioning device which positions the image carrier out of contact with the
revolver, and defines a predetermined gap between each of the developing
rollers and image carrier at the developing position;

an intermediate transfer member which is in contact with the image carrier at a top
portion of the image carrier in a vertical direction, said intermediate transfer
member carrying an image formed on the image carrier,

wherein:

one end of the positioning device is attached to the shaft of the revolver;

the positioning device rotatably holds the image carrier at a midpoint of the
positioning device; and

the other end of the positioning device is fixed to the support frame.

11. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the
positioning device supports the shaft of the revolver at one end of the positioning device,
wherein the positioning device supports the shaft of the image carrier at a midpoint of the
positioning device, and wherein the other end of the positioning device is fixed to the support
frame.